

**Alaska Water Quality Standard Projects**  
**EPA Quarterly Report**  
**September 2015**

**1. Adoption of Antidegradation Implementation Methods (Division and CO priority)**

**Management Lead:** Michelle/Nancy

**Staff Lead:** Brock/Earl

**Activity:**

- Internal engagement on issue

**Challenges:**

- Addressing stakeholder concerns

**Next Steps/Schedule:**

DEC to complete draft package

**Decision required:**

- None at this time
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**2. Resolve Issues Delaying EPA Approval of Mixing Zone Guidance by EPA (Division and CO priority):**

**Management Lead:** Sharon

**Staff Lead:** Brock

**Activity:**

- DEC is interested in re-engaging with EPA regarding approval of 2009 mixing zone guidance

ESA Consultation

- Per KC: “There is only one aspect of consultation remaining and that is an analysis for the Beluga whale; a request letter does not need to be sent; EPA needs to update the BE and send it to the Services...”
- EPA to work with services to complete review

**Challenges:**

- Staff availability

**Next Steps/Schedule:**

- Re-engage EPA

**Decision required?**

- DEC Approval to submit revised Mixing Zone Guidance and Concurrent Flow guidelines to EPA
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**3. Monitor and Assist EPA Review of Residues Criteria (Division and CO priority)**

**Lead: Sharon**

**Staff: Denise**

**Activity:**

- None since December 2013.

**Challenges:**

- Requesting EPA action when they have set a low priority on this WQS review and approval.

**Next Steps/Schedule:**

- Wait for EPA will assign staff to this review-EPA is currently evaluating their own workload.

**Decision required?** None at this time

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**4. Evaluate options for revisions to Human Health Criteria (HHC): (Division and CO priority)**

**Lead: Sharon**

**Staff: Brock**

**Activity:**

- Technical Workgroup Meeting #2
  - Next meeting on September 30
  - Announcement and reading materials posted to website
- HHC Workshop to be held Oct 29-30

**Challenges:**

- Ensuring CO concerns are adequately addressed at each stage of the process
- Ensuring transparency in the process

**Next Steps/Schedule**

- Continue to monitor other state efforts (WA, ID, FL, ME)

**Decision Needed:**

- None at this time

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## **5. Chuit River Basin Site Specific Criteria**

**Lead: Sharon/Nancy/Wade**

**Staff: Brock/Will Collingwood (APDES)**

**Activity:**

- Elevated to Michelle
- Meetings were held between DEC/EPA/PacRim regarding the status of the project and key issues of concern
  - Meeting #1 (6/29)
    - Discussion focused on representativeness of data/WER results
    - Determined additional meetings were required
  - Meeting #2 (7/22): Addressed SSC for Manganese and Reclassification (Agriculture) proposals
    - Determined that additional discussion and data gathering is not required at this time.

**Challenges:**

- Multiple agencies and opinions

**Next Steps/Schedule:**

- Waiting for EPA to engage with DEC regarding when another stakeholder meeting will be held
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## **6. Girdwood/Glacier Creek Site Specific Criteria**

**Lead: Brock/Nancy/Wade**

**Staff: Denise Elston/Mike Martz**

**Activity:**

- Girdwood responded to DEC/EPA comments
  - Denise/Doug/Nancy/Brock met and discussed project on 9/18.
  - Working internally to develop potential options for AWWU to consider (BLM v. additional WER testing)

**Challenges:**

- Characterizing Glacier Creek

**Next Steps:**

- Work with AWWU regarding issues with area of concern, Glacier Creek hydrochemistry, and downstream protection (all flow conditions)

**Schedule:**

- TBD

**Decision required?**

None

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## **7. Update to Standard Analytical Methods**

**Lead:** Earl Crapps/Nancy Sonafrank  
**Staff:** Doug Kolwaite/Denise

**Activity:**

- Denise finalized draft package and sent to Nancy for review
- When to work on the 2/19/15 Standard Methods updates?

**Challenges:**

- Scheduling a meeting with EPA in a timely manner

**Next Steps/Schedule:**

- Nancy will review and set a date/time to brief Michelle

**Decision Required**

None at this time

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## **8. 2015-2017 Triennial Review**

**Lead:** Michelle  
**Staff:** Brock

**Activity:**

- Drafted Director's Brief and EPA TR Notification Letter
  - Sent to Nancy for review and comments

**Challenges:**

- None noted

**Next Steps/Schedule:**

- Nancy to review TR Package and return comments to Brock
- Brief Director/Commissioner
- Post on DEC website and send notice to Listserv
- Send to EPA

**Decision Required?**

None at this time

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## **9. Nutrients**

**Lead:** Brock

**Staff: Denise Elston**

**Activity:**

- Denise asked to participate in public outreach working group.

**Challenges:** Alaska has an EPA approved nutrient criteria for the Cook Inlet Eco-region only.

**Next Steps:**

- Continue to monitor efforts in the Northwest

**Schedule:** TBD

**Decision Required?** Not at this time

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## **10. Ammonia**

**Lead: Brock**

**Staff: Denise Elston**

**Activity:**

- Asked Denise to get the WERF proceedings. Review and add info to TSD as needed
- Start engaging with ADF&G, USGS, USFWS to see if there is new population information
- APDES program will need to engage with POTWs regarding potential implications (# of facilities affected) .

**Challenges:** Alaska has an EPA approved nutrient criteria for the Cook Inlet Eco-region only.

**Next Steps:**

- Continue to monitor efforts in the Northwest

**Schedule:** TBD

**Decision Required?** Not at this time

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## **11. Usibelli SSC and Reclassification (Brock)**

**Lead: Brock**

**Staff: Denise Elston**

**Activity:**

- Started reading proposal and requested supporting materials
- Allan Nakanishi will be APDES lead
- Need to send preliminary questions/comments back as soon as possible
- Need to **inform EPA** about the proposal and ask for staff assignment

**Challenges:** None identified at this time

**Next Steps:**

- Review proposal and provide initial feedback

**Schedule:** TBD

**Decision Required?** Not at this time

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## **12. 2012 RWQC: (Denise)**

**Lead:** Brock

**Staff:** Denise Elston

**Activity:**

- Developing regulatory language
- Discussing options with other R10 states
- Will monitor efforts by ACWA-monitoring committee to address this issue

**Challenges:** None identified at this time

**Next Steps:**

- Develop regulatory language and options for addressing EPA-proposed BAV

**Schedule:** Submission: Fall 2016

**Decision Required?** Not at this time